

THE LABOUR FORCE : COUNTRY OF BIRTH AND PERIOD OF RESIDENCE IN AUSTRALIA,  
FEBRUARY 1972

Reference No. 6.31

Introduction

Estimates of the civilian labour force, obtained from the population survey, are published each quarter in the mimeographed bulletin "The Labour Force" (Reference No. 6.20). The survey is carried out on a sample basis in February, May, August and November each year.

2. In the February 1972 survey, information was obtained on each person's country of birth and, for those born overseas, the year of arrival in Australia. A summary of the principal characteristics of persons in the labour force in February 1972, classified by country of birth and, for migrants, period of residence, is shown in the tables herein. Corresponding information will be obtained each quarter in future, and will be published in the regular quarterly and annual Labour Force bulletins.

3. During the February survey about 40,000 private dwellings (houses, flats, etc.) were visited, as well as a sample of other dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.). Survey information is obtained by means of personal interviews carried out by specially trained enumerators. The sample used in the surveys covers the six States, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. The estimates relate to all persons aged fifteen years and over, except members of the permanent armed forces, national servicemen enlisted in the Regular Army Supplement, and certain diplomatic personnel customarily excluded from census and estimated populations.

4. The survey estimates are subject to sampling variability. Estimates of less than 4,000 are not published in the tables because they would be subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes. Further particulars concerning the reliability of the estimates will be found on page 7.

Summary of results

5. The survey indicated that the labour force participation rate (i.e. the proportion of the civilian population aged 15 years and over who were in the labour force) was higher for persons born outside Australia (66.9 per cent) than for those born in Australia (58.7 per cent). This difference was most marked for married women, 43.7 per cent of those born outside Australia being in the labour force, compared with 32.3 per cent for those born in Australia; but it was also considerable for males (86.7 per cent compared with 81.4 per cent). Some of the differences in participation rates can be accounted for by the different age structure of the Australian-born and the overseas-born populations. However, there were noticeable differences even within the same age-groups. (See Table 2.)

6. The proportion of persons employed in manufacturing industry was much higher for migrants than for the Australian-born (being more than double for females). Almost half of those born overseas were employed as craftsmen, production-process workers or labourers, whereas fewer than one-third of those born in Australia were in this occupation group. (See Tables 3 and 4.)

7. Unemployment rates were generally higher for persons born outside Australia (3.2 per cent) than for the Australian-born (2.1 per cent). The rates were highest for persons aged 15-19 years and for recent arrivals in Australia. (See Tables 1 and 5.)

Classification of the labour force

8. The labour force category to which a person is assigned depends on his actual activity (i.e. whether working, looking for work, etc.) during a specified week, known as "survey week", which is the week immediately preceding that in which the interview takes place. The interviews are carried out during a period of four weeks, so that there are four survey weeks in each of the months to which the survey relates. These survey weeks generally fall within the limits of the calendar month. The principal categories appearing in the tables in this bulletin are defined in the following paragraphs.

9. The labour force comprises all persons who, during survey week, were employed or unemployed as defined in paragraphs 10 and 11.

10. Employed persons comprise all those who, during survey week,

- (a) did any work for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job or business, or on a farm (including employees, employers and self-employed persons), or
- (b) worked fifteen hours or more without pay in a family business (or farm), or
- (c) had a job, business or farm, but were not at work because of illness, accident, leave, holiday, production hold-up due to bad weather, plant breakdown, etc., or because they were on strike.

A person who had a job but was temporarily laid off by his employer for the whole week without pay is excluded, and is classified in the tables as unemployed. A person who did some work during the week, however, before he either lost his job or was laid off, is classified as employed. A person who held more than one job is counted only once, in the job at which he worked most hours during survey week.

11. Unemployed persons comprise all those who, during survey week, did no work at all, and who either

- (a) did not have a job or business and were actively looking for work (including those who stated that they would have looked for work if they had not been temporarily ill or believed no work was available, or had not already made definite arrangements to start work in a new job after survey week), or
- (b) were laid off from their jobs without pay for the whole week.

A person who either lost his job or was laid off during survey week, but did some work at his job during survey week, is classified as employed.

12. Persons not in the labour force are all those who, during survey week, were not in the categories "employed" or "unemployed" as defined. This category therefore includes persons without a job, business or farm who were not actively looking for work, and who, during survey week, were either keeping house (unpaid), attending an educational institution (e.g. school, university or teachers' college), retired or voluntarily idle, permanently unable to work or inmates of institutions. A person who worked less than fifteen hours without pay in a family business during survey week is also classified as not in the labour force.

NOTE. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in tables are due to rounding.

TABLE 1. - CIVILIAN POPULATION 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER (a).  
BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS, FEBRUARY 1972

Country of birth and year of arrival	Employed (b) ('000)	Unemployed (b)		Total labour force (b)		Not in the labour force(b) ('000)	Civilian population aged 15 and over (a) ('000)
		Number ('000)	Per cent of labour force	Number ('000)	Per cent of popul- ation (c)		
MALES							
Total	3,706.4	74.8	2.0	3,781.3	82.8	784.3	4,565.6
Born in Australia	2,705.6	46.6	1.7	2,752.2	81.4	627.0	3,379.2
Born outside Australia	1,000.8	28.3	2.7	1,029.1	86.7	157.3	1,186.4
Germany, Federal Republic	37.5	*	*	38.2	93.6	*	40.8
Greece	69.2	*	*	72.4	90.4	7.6	80.0
Holland	44.7	*	*	46.0	93.2	*	49.4
Italy	134.5	*	*	137.2	89.2	16.7	153.9
Malta	23.8	*	*	24.3	90.1	*	26.9
New Zealand	26.0	*	*	26.7	82.9	5.5	32.2
United Kingdom and Ireland	376.0	9.9	2.6	385.9	82.4	82.5	468.3
Yugoslavia	58.6	*	*	60.8	94.6	*	64.3
Other	230.5	7.1	3.0	237.6	87.8	32.9	270.5
Arrived in Australia -							
Before 1955	375.7	6.5	1.7	382.2	79.7	97.1	479.3
1955-61	224.3	5.1	2.2	229.4	92.0	20.0	249.4
1962-66	162.0	4.7	2.8	166.7	90.7	17.1	183.8
1967-70	181.7	6.4	3.4	188.1	92.5	15.3	203.4
1971-72 (to February)	57.0	5.6	9.0	62.7	88.9	7.8	70.5
MARRIED WOMEN							
Total	1,047.2	33.1	3.1	1,080.3	35.2	1,989.8	3,070.1
Born in Australia	722.6	18.6	2.5	741.2	32.3	1,552.3	2,293.5
Born outside Australia	324.6	14.5	4.3	339.1	43.7	437.4	776.5
Germany, Federal Republic	17.3	*	*	17.6	54.0	15.0	32.6
Greece	32.6	*	*	33.3	54.8	27.5	60.8
Holland	12.7	*	*	13.0	36.3	22.9	35.9
Italy	36.5	*	*	37.7	37.1	63.9	101.6
Malta	6.3	*	*	6.9	35.7	12.4	19.2
New Zealand	9.2	*	*	9.6	45.7	11.4	21.1
United Kingdom and Ireland	118.6	6.4	5.1	125.0	40.6	183.0	308.0
Yugoslavia	21.4	*	*	23.0	57.2	17.2	40.2
Other	70.1	*	*	72.9	46.4	84.3	157.2
Arrived in Australia -							
Before 1955	98.8	*	*	100.5	36.3	176.8	277.3
1955-61	83.2	*	*	85.8	46.4	99.0	184.8
1962-66	60.7	*	*	63.5	47.1	71.2	134.7
1967-70	65.7	*	*	69.5	50.9	66.9	136.4
1971-72 (to February)	16.2	*	*	19.8	45.7	23.5	43.3

For footnotes, see next page.

TABLE 1. - CIVILIAN POPULATION 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER (a),

BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS, FEBRUARY 1972 - continued

Country of birth and year of arrival	Employed (b) ('000)	Unemployed (b)		Total labour force (b)		Not in the labour force (b) ('000)	Civilian population aged 15 and over (a) ('000)
		Number ('000)	Per cent of labour force	Number ('000)	Per cent of population (c)		
ALL FEMALES							
Total	1,740.3	61.0	3.4	1,801.3	38.9	2,833.3	4,634.6
Born in Australia	1,302.6	41.2	3.1	1,343.8	37.3	2,256.4	3,600.2
Born outside Australia	437.8	19.8	4.3	457.5	44.2	576.9	1,034.4
Germany, Federal Republic	22.6	*	*	23.1	55.2	18.7	41.8
Greece	38.8	*	*	40.0	54.0	34.1	74.1
Holland	16.7	*	*	17.2	41.3	24.4	41.5
Italy	45.9	*	*	47.4	39.3	73.4	120.8
Malta	8.8	*	*	9.4	39.0	14.7	24.1
New Zealand	14.2	*	*	15.0	48.7	15.8	30.9
United Kingdom and Ireland	167.2	8.1	4.6	175.3	40.2	261.1	436.4
Yugoslavia	26.0	*	*	28.1	57.3	20.9	49.0
Other	97.5	4.6	4.5	102.1	47.3	113.7	215.8
Arrived in Australia -							
Before 1955	130.2	*	*	132.6	34.1	255.7	388.2
1955-61	109.5	4.2	3.7	113.7	47.6	125.1	238.8
1962-66	80.5	*	*	84.1	49.3	86.5	170.5
1967-70	90.3	4.9	5.2	95.3	54.3	80.1	175.3
1971-72 (to Feb.)	27.2	4.7	14.8	31.9	51.9	29.6	61.6
PERSONS							
Total	5,446.8	135.8	2.4	5,582.6	60.7	3,617.6	9,200.2
Born in Australia	4,008.2	87.8	2.1	4,096.0	58.7	2,883.4	6,979.4
Born outside Australia	1,438.6	48.1	3.2	1,486.6	66.9	734.2	2,220.8
Germany, Federal Republic	60.1	*	*	61.3	74.2	21.3	82.6
Greece	108.0	4.4	3.9	112.4	72.9	41.7	154.1
Holland	61.4	*	*	63.2	69.5	27.7	90
Italy	180.4	4.2	2.3	184.6	67.2	90.1	274.7
Malta	32.6	*	*	33.7	66.0	17.4	51.0
New Zealand	40.3	*	*	41.8	66.2	21.4	63.1
United Kingdom and Ireland	543.1	18.0	3.2	561.1	62.0	343.6	904.7
Yugoslavia	84.7	4.2	4.8	88.9	78.5	24.4	113.3
Other	328.0	11.7	3.5	339.7	69.9	146.6	486.3
Arrived in Australia -							
Before 1955	505.9	8.9	1.7	514.8	59.3	352.8	867.5
1955-61	333.8	9.3	2.7	343.1	70.3	145.1	488.2
1962-66	242.5	8.3	3.3	250.8	70.8	103.5	354.3
1967-70	272.0	11.3	4.0	283.4	74.8	95.4	378.8
1971-72 (to Feb.)	84.3	10.3	10.9	94.6	71.7	37.4	132.0

(a) For a note on persons excluded see page 1, paragraph 3. (b) For definitions see page 2.  
 (c) The labour force in each group as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over in the same group (labour force participation rate).

\* Less than or based on a figure less than 4,000. See page 1, paragraph 4.

TABLE 2. - LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES (a), BY AGE, FEBRUARY 1972  
(Per cent)

Age group (years)	Born in Australia			Born outside Australia		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
15-19	60.2	55.9	58.1	59.3	59.0	59.2
20-24	92.2	60.5	76.5	93.5	60.9	77.0
25-34	97.3	37.7	67.7	98.2	46.6	74.3
35-44	97.4	43.9	70.3	98.8	56.8	80.6
45-54	95.2	39.6	66.7	97.4	51.3	76.9
55-59	89.7	27.7	57.0	92.6	33.3	66.8
60-64	76.5	15.4	44.4	78.7	18.6	51.1
65 and over	21.1	3.8	10.8	21.8	3.9	12.2
<u>Total</u>	81.4	37.3	58.7	86.7	44.2	66.9

(a) The labour force in each group as a percentage of the civilian population in the same group.

TABLE 3. - EMPLOYED PERSONS (a), BY INDUSTRY, FEBRUARY 1972

Industry group	Born in Australia			Born outside Australia		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
NUMBER ('000)						
Primary production	344.4	59.0	403.3	37.6	13.5	51.1
Manufacturing	660.7	213.7	874.5	390.0	154.2	544.2
Building and construction	299.6	19.7	319.3	151.0	6.0	157.0
Transport and storage	200.7	27.7	228.4	54.5	5.7	60.2
Finance and property	116.3	86.4	202.7	24.7	16.1	40.8
Commerce	422.4	310.8	733.2	133.5	83.8	217.3
Community and business services (b)	220.2	346.6	566.8	72.6	94.9	167.4
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	103.6	155.1	258.8	47.3	45.9	93.2
Other industries	337.7	83.5	421.2	89.6	17.8	107.4
<u>Total</u>	2,705.6	1,302.6	4,008.2	1,000.8	437.8	1,438.6
PROPORTION OF TOTAL (PER CENT)						
Primary production	12.7	4.5	10.1	3.8	3.1	3.6
Manufacturing	24.4	16.4	21.8	39.0	35.2	37.8
Building and construction	11.1	1.5	7.8	15.1	1.4	10.9
Transport and storage	7.4	2.1	5.7	5.4	1.3	4.2
Finance and property	4.3	6.6	5.1	2.5	3.7	2.8
Commerce	15.6	23.9	18.3	13.3	19.1	15.1
Community and business services (b)	8.1	26.6	14.1	7.3	21.7	11.6
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	3.8	11.9	6.5	4.7	10.5	6.5
Other industries	12.5	6.4	10.5	9.0	4.1	7.5
<u>Total</u>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Civilians aged 15 years and over. For definition see page 2, paragraph 10.

(b) Comprises law, order and public safety; religion and social welfare; health, hospitals, etc.; education; and other community and business services (including professional).

TABLE 4. - EMPLOYED PERSONS (a) BY OCCUPATION, FEBRUARY 1972

Occupation group	Born in Australia			Born outside Australia		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
NUMBER ('000)						
Professional, technical and related workers	259.5	206.1	465.6	102.6	49.2	151.8
Administrative, executive and managerial workers	243.5	27.1	270.6	72.8	7.4	80.2
Clerical workers	257.3	465.3	722.6	56.5	99.4	155.9
Sales workers	170.7	176.5	347.2	54.6	48.1	102.7
Farmers, fishermen, timbergetters, etc.	367.7	52.8	420.5	45.1	13.5	58.6
Transport and communication workers	230.0	42.6	272.6	51.9	5.9	57.8
Craftsmen, production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c. (b)	1,066.8	126.7	1,193.6	563.3	130.2	693.5
Service, sport and recreation workers	110.1	205.5	315.6	54.0	84.0	138.0
<u>Total</u>	<u>2,705.6</u>	<u>1,302.6</u>	<u>4,008.2</u>	<u>1,000.8</u>	<u>437.8</u>	<u>1,438.6</u>

PROPORTION OF TOTAL (PER CENT)

Professional, technical and related workers	9.6	15.8	11.6	10.3	11.2	10.6
Administrative, executive and managerial workers	9.0	2.1	6.8	7.3	1.7	5.6
Clerical workers	9.5	35.7	18.0	5.6	22.7	10.8
Sales workers	6.3	13.5	8.7	5.6	10.9	7.1
Farmers, fishermen, timbergetters, etc.	13.6	4.0	10.5	4.5	3.1	4.1
Transport and communication workers	8.5	3.3	6.8	5.2	1.4	4.0
Craftsmen, production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c. (b)	39.4	9.7	29.8	56.3	29.7	48.2
Service, sport and recreation workers	4.1	15.8	7.9	5.4	19.2	9.6
<u>Total</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>

(a) Civilians aged 15 years and over. For definition see page 2, paragraph 10.

(b) Includes miners, quarrymen and related workers.

TABLE 5. - UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (a), BY AGE, FEBRUARY 1972

Age group (years)	Number unemployed ('000)			Per cent of labour force (b)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
BORN IN AUSTRALIA						
Total	46.6	41.2	87.8	1.7	3.1	2.1
15-19	19.1	18.4	37.5	6.4	6.7	6.5
20 and over	27.5	22.8	50.3	1.1	2.1	1.4
20-24	8.0	8.6	16.6	2.0	3.3	2.5
25-34	6.8	6.5	13.2	1.1	2.7	1.5
35 and over	12.7	7.8	20.5	0.9	1.4	1.0
BORN OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA						
Total	28.3	19.8	48.1	2.7	4.3	3.2
15-19	4.9	*	7.9	11.3	*	9.3
20 and over	23.1	16.8	40.1	2.4	4.0	2.9
20-24	5.5	*	8.3	5.1	*	4.6
25-34	6.1	7.6	13.7	2.3	6.8	3.6
35 and over	11.7	6.5	18.2	1.9	2.8	2.2

(a) For definition see page 2, paragraph 11. (b) The unemployed in each group as a percentage of the civilian labour force in the same group.

\* Less than or based on a figure less than 4,000 - see page 1, paragraph 4.

TECHNICAL NOTEEstimation procedure

Estimates derived from the quarterly population survey are obtained by using a ratio estimation procedure. This procedure ensures that survey estimates conform to the independently estimated distribution of the population by age and sex, rather than the age and sex distribution within the sample itself.

Reliability of the estimates

2. Since the estimates in this bulletin are based on a sample, they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained from a complete census using the same questionnaires and procedures. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample, and not the whole population, was enumerated. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained from a comparable complete enumeration, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. A table of standard errors is given below. These standard errors are averages based on calculations for a limited number of population surveys over a wide range of labour force characteristics. These figures thus give not a precise measure but an indication of the magnitude of the standard error of a particular estimate. An example of the use of the table is as follows : if the estimate obtained from the sample is 200,000 and the standard error is 2 per cent of the estimate, i.e. 4,000, there are about two chances in three that the true figure is within the range 196,000 to 204,000 and about nineteen chances in twenty that this figure is between 192,000 and 208,000.

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate (persons)	Approximate standard error of estimates		Size of estimate (persons)	Approximate standard error of estimates	
	Persons	Per cent of estimate		Persons	Per cent of estimate
4,000	750	19	100,000	3,000	3
5,000	850	17	200,000	4,000	2
10,000	1,100	11	500,000	5,000	1
20,000	1,400	7	1,000,000	5,500	0.6
50,000	2,000	4	2,000,000	8,000	0.4

3. The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon both the size of the percentage and the size of the denominator. Percentages quoted in this bulletin, and any other percentages calculated from figures presented herein, have generally somewhat lower standard errors (proportionally) than have the estimates which form the numerators of the percentages.

4. The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the standard error, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as the non-sampling error, and they may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or only a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures.

J. P. O'NEILL  
COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600

19 JUNE 1972

NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 63 9111 extension 2427 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.